

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending.

Claims 22-28 have been added. Claims 22-24 recite embodiments deleted from claims 1 and 20 in the above amendments. Similarly, claims 26-28 recite embodiments delete from claim 20. Claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of treatment. The claims have been amended to recite Z as alkylene. The specification has been similarly amended as suggested by the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action of March 27, 2003 (Paper No. 11). No new matter has been added.

The objection to the disclosure is obviated by the above amendments.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the same are requested.

The Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 14-18, 19 and 21 stated in paragraph 5 on page 3 of Paper No. 11 is obviated by the above amendments. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the same are requested.

The Rule 75 objection to claim 3 is obviated by the above amendments and withdrawal of the same is requested.

The Section 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 20 and the Section 101 rejection of claim 20 stated in paragraphs 7 and 8 of page 4 of Paper No. 11 are obviated by the above amendments. Withdrawal of the rejections of claim 20 are requested.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 14 over Marti (Tetrahedron Letters, 1993), is traversed, to the extent is not obviated by the above amendments. Reconsideration

and withdrawal of the rejection are requested along with consideration of the following comments.

The applicants respectfully submit that Marti et al., relates to the use of chiral thiazolium salts as catalysts for inducing a symmetry in the condensation of benzoin. To obtain such an effect, the thiazolium salts must have 2 asymmetric carbon atoms in the chain linking both thiazoliums.

Such derivatives are different from the claimed compounds wherein the linking chain is a non-substituted alkylene chain, with optionally insertions. Accordingly, Marti is not believed to anticipate claim 14.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 are requested.

The Examiner's indication that claims 6, 9, 11, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter (see, page 5 of Paper No. 11) is acknowledged, with appreciation. The above amendments are believed to place the entire application in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested.

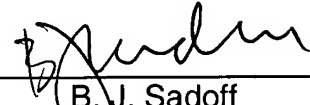
The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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